



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

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RICHARD J. CODEY  
*Acting Governor*

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FRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D.  
*Acting Commissioner*

**ORDER OF THE NEW JERSEY ACTING COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFLUENZA VACCINE**

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2004, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services received notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that none of Chiron Corporation's influenza vaccine would be available for distribution in the United States for the 2004-05 influenza season; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2004, the Department of Health and Senior Services implemented an Influenza Vaccine Reallocation Plan requiring all physicians, nurses, healthcare facilities, pharmacies and others that dispense vaccine to limit the administration of influenza vaccine only to persons in the priority groups;

WHEREAS on December 17, 2004, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices expanded the list of list of priority groups to include adults aged 50-64 and close contacts of persons in high-risk groups;

WHEREAS on January 3, 2005, the Department of Health and Senior Services completed a survey of providers concerning influenza vaccine demand and acknowledges the available supply is sufficient to meet demand;

WHEREAS the Acting Commissioner of Health and Senior Services recommends influenza vaccine be made more widely available although an emphasis shall remain on meeting the needs of the priority groups;

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED PURSUANT TO P.L. 2004, c.153 THAT:

To protect the public health during the 2004-2005 influenza season, the Acting Commissioner of Health and Senior Services hereby issues this Order updating the Influenza Vaccine Reallocation Plan ("Plan").

The Plan, effective this date, authorizes physicians, nurses, healthcare facilities, pharmacies and others that dispense vaccine to administer influenza vaccine to the individuals in the priority groups listed below;

- a) children aged 6-23 months;
- b) adults aged 50 years and older;
- c) persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- d) women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;

- e) residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- f) children aged 6 months–18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- g) close contacts of persons in priority groups listed above;
- h) health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- i) out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of anyone at high risk of complications of influenza, including children aged <6 months.

This Plan also recommends and authorizes physicians, nurses, healthcare facilities, pharmacies and others that dispense vaccine to assess demand and authorizes the discretionary use of vaccine, as medically appropriate, to low-risk and low-priority individuals.

The Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until modified by further order or when P.L. 2004, c.153 expires on May 31, 2005.

DATED: January 4, 2005

s/Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.  
Acting Commissioner

Underline additions to priority groups